

CourageintheCorps

Marine's Leadership Saves His Men

s commanding officer of Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines, 4th Marine Division, on Feb. 21, 1945, Capt. Joseph Jeremiah McCarthy led his Marines on an attack to break through the strong enemy defenses on Iwo Jima. As his company's advance fell victim to continuous, overwhelming enemy fire, McCarthy hand-picked a rifle squad and organized demolition and flamethrower teams.

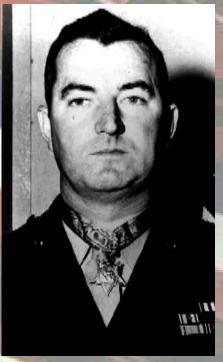
Leading his Marines across 75 yards of open, fire-swept ground, McCarthy charged a heavily fortified pillbox and tossed grenades into it while directing his assault unit to completely destroy the Japanese stronghold. McCarthy again exposed himself to brutal enemy fire when he stood and killed two fleeing enemy soldiers.

As the enemy fire intensified, McCarthy and his Marines, again without cover, advanced to a second bunker and destroyed it with demolitions. Entering the ruins of the enemy emplacement, McCarthy attacked and killed an enemy soldier who was aiming at a fellow Marine. With a narrow breach now existing, McCarthy rallied his company into a furious assault, destroyed all resistance, and captured the ridge.

McCarthy's bold and courageous actions under fire and his inspiring leadership which rallied his Marines made a significant contribution to the 4th Marine Division's advance to capture Iwo Jima. For his decisive action, Captain McCarthy was awarded the Medal of Honor.

McCarthy retired from the Marine Corps as an honorary brigadier general and became head of the Chicago Fire Department's ambulance service for many years before retiring in 1973. He attended the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the battle for Iwo Jima in Washington, D.C., in February 1995.

Although he was 82 years old, he spoke with the enthusiasm he had as a young officer. There was no doubt that if the Marine Corps called him to fight that



Capt. Joseph Jeremiah McCarthy

day, he would have gladly picked up a rifle and fallen into ranks.

He would not speak of his actions in battle. He only praised his young Marines for their heroism and the risks they took under his command. McCarthy was awarded the Medal of Honor but wore it in his Marines' honor.

Although McCarthy died in June 1996, the footprint of leadership that he left with his Marines and civilian acquaintances made an unquestionable impact. McCarthy was one man who carried our Core Values throughout his life and made a lifelong difference to many.

The Marine Corps Values Program is designed to instill, reinforce, and sustain in every Marine our Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment — from the rank of general down to the newest recruits and officer candidates. These values are the very ethos of our character, which must be burned into the souls of all who wear the eagle, globe, and anchor. It is every Marine's responsibility to teach these values to their junior Marines by their impeccable example and to show society by the same. "Courage in the Corps" portrays Marines who have displayed our core values by their distinguished actions in combat and in peace, those who have laid their lives on the line for the success of the mission, and those who contribute in other ways but go unnoticed.



Someone to watch over me

Lance Cpl. Michael L. Hurst keeps a watchful eye on a refugee camp during the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit's recent humanitarian operations training. Hurst is a mortarman with Battalion Landing Team, 1st Bn., 1st Marines.